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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the

Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: Regional

confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations

Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

**Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the
United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security
Questions in Central Africa**

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.2

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6-12, 15 and 16 of draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.2, the General Assembly would:

(a) Welcome the creation of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, to be known as the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, by the summit Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States, held at Yaoundé on 25 February 1999, and request the Secretary-General to give his full support to the effective realization of that important mechanism;

(b) Emphasize the need to make the early-warning mechanism in Central Africa operational so that it will serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and, on the other hand, as a technical body through which the member States will carry out the programme of work of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting held at Yaoundé in 1992, and request the Secretary-General to provide it with the assistance necessary for it to function properly;



(c) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to lend all their support to the effective establishment and smooth functioning of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa;

(d) Request the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and the early-warning mechanism;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to support the establishment of a network of parliamentarians with a view to the creation of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

(f) Request the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories;

(g) Welcome with satisfaction the decision taken at the fourteenth ministerial meeting to organize a subregional conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflicts, and request the Secretary-General to lend all the necessary support for the holding of the conference;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry on their efforts;

(i) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Relationship of the proposed request to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 6, 7, 9-12, 15 and 16 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 2, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, and section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

3. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and to section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

4. The request contained in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution is associated with programme 21, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as revised, and section 23, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, as well as the programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

5. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 15 and 16 of the draft resolution, regarding provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and the submission of a report to the General Assembly, would be carried out within the resources provided under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The provision contained therein covers substantive servicing of four plenary sessions of the Committee during the biennium.

6. The activities of the Committee, including those related to the implementation and functioning of the early-warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa referred to in operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 9, as well as those related to the establishment of a network of parliamentarians referred to in operative paragraph 10 and those related to the organization of the subregional conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflicts referred to in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, are expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Committee.

7. Activities proposed in operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution are related to programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, and to section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The proposed activities relate to subprogramme 3.

8. It is recalled that, at its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa with adequate financial resources, and in this regard decided to appropriate an amount of one million dollars in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The appropriation was made under section 22, Human rights.

9. It will also be recalled that in paragraph 22.45 of document A/56/6 (sect. 22), the Secretary-General stated that "The non-inclusion of resources in the biennium 2002-2003 on the Subregional Centre is without prejudice to such needs as may be demonstrated in the context of the report on activities to establish the Centre, which will be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session". The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities that have been carried out as well as those envisioned in connection with establishment of the Subregional Centre (A/56/36/Add.1) will be before the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

10. Should the draft resolution be adopted, the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would continue to lend all their support to the effective establishment and smooth functioning of the Subregional Centre through the following activities to be carried out during the biennium 2002-2003:

A. Human rights activities

a. Training:

- i. Human rights training session for political leaders, in the first semester of 2002;

- ii. Human rights training session for media practitioners, in the second semester of 2002;
- iii. Annual training course for civil servants and human rights defenders on international human rights mechanisms, to be held in June 2002 and June 2003.
- b. Advisory services and technical cooperation:
 - i. Continuation of technical cooperation programme for the national human rights bodies;
 - ii. Provision of advisory services and technical cooperation to governments and NGOs, upon request;
 - iii. Support for strengthening the activities of human rights NGOs and networks.
- c. Capacity-building in human rights and democracy:
 - i. Implementation of a fellowship programme;
 - ii. Development of a roster/resource bank of expertise in human rights and democracy in Central Africa, starting in January 2002.
- d. External relations and partnerships:
 - i. Signature and application of a memorandum of understanding with ECCAS through its general secretariat;
 - ii. Development of partnerships with various national, African, and international organizations sharing the same goals as the Centre.

B. Activities related to democracy

The appointment of a Programme Officer on democracy would handle the Centre's programme of activities on the subject of democracy. The terms of reference of this position would include the following activities:

- (a) Research and compile relevant documentation on democratization, both within the United Nations and in the countries of the subregion, and on progress in the democratization process in those countries;
- (b) Study and assess technical cooperation needs for the subregion's democratization process;
- (c) Develop a programme of activities and technical cooperation projects for the countries of the subregion, in consultation with all interested parties;
- (d) Prepare and execute a strategy to integrate human rights and democratic principles into the United Nations activities and programmes on conflict prevention in the subregion;
- (e) Develop education and training programmes for the promotion of democratic principles and the human rights aspects of democracy to target groups, in particular government authorities, political parties, media and civil society;

(f) Provide assistance to Governments, upon request, for the preparation of elections, the development and execution of training programmes and policies in the field of election monitoring, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, concerned bodies and NGOs;

(g) Provide advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of democracy to countries of the subregion, as requested by Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and representatives of the Secretary-General in Central Africa;

(h) Assist, at the request of Governments, in the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions responsible for managing activities related to democracy in their countries (ombudsmen, national electoral commissions etc.);

(i) Develop and strengthen cooperation networks in the subregion, including identifying potential areas of cooperation in the field of democracy;

(j) Provide training during workshops and other similar activities in the subregion;

(k) Undertake representational and other missions in the subregion, on behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other entities of the United Nations Secretariat, as appropriate.

11. Implementation of the activities related to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, regarding increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees and displaced persons in their territories, would be subject to the availability of voluntary contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

IV. Modification required in the programme of work for 2002-2003

12. Modifications would not be required to programme 2, Disarmament, and programme 21, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, or to sections 4 and 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

13. The narrative of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 would be modified as shown below. Subject to the decision of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, this narrative will be incorporated into the final version of the programme of work of section 22 of the programme budget for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Outputs

Paragraph 22.44 (d) (i) After the word "Cambodia", add the words "strengthening of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, Yaoundé (Cameroon)".

V. Indication of additional requirements

14. Should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.2, no additional requirements would arise under sections 4 and 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

15. The additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work elaborated in paragraph 10 above which are related to section 22, Human rights, are estimated at \$1,000,000 to continue the present level of support as a subvention. The cost plan for allocation of the subvention would be as follows:

<i>Additional requirements</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
Positions to be funded:		
P-5 Head of Office	251 800 ^a	
P-4 Programme Officer	211 600 ^a	
P-3 Human Rights Officer	97 800 ^b	
General Service (Administrative Assistant)	42 400 ^a	
General Service (Documentalist)	<u>42 400^a</u>	646 000
General Temporary Assistance (Driver/Messenger)		12 000
Consultants and experts:		
Four subregional workshops:		
International consultant (1 w/m at P-4 level)		
Fee, travel and DSA	22 000	
International consultant (1 w/m at P-4 level)		
Fee, travel and DSA	10 500	
Consultant (1 w/m at National Officer B rate) to develop a curriculum for the introduction of human rights in the courses of primary and secondary schools	3 000	
Consultant (1 w/m at National Officer B rate) to design a programme for the development of national institutions for human rights in Central Africa	<u>3 000</u>	38 500
Travel of 25 participants to each of four subregional training workshops		147 800
Travel of staff:		
International travel	15 900	
Travels within subregion	<u>17 400</u>	33 300
Contractual services:		
External printing and binding of newsletter		10 000
General operating expenses:		
Rental and maintenance of office premises	43 200	
Rental of conference space for workshops	2 000	
Utilities	7 200	
Rental of local transportation for workshops	1 000	
Communication costs	12 000	
Maintenance of furniture and equipment	6 000	
Maintenance of office automation equipment	<u>6 000</u>	77 400

<i>Additional requirements</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
Supplies and materials		
Stationery, office supplies etc.	6 000	
Library books and supplies	<u>5 000</u>	11 000
Fellowships		
Maintenance of office automation equipment		12 000
Joint administrative activities		12 000
Total		1 000 000

^a Estimated at vacancy rate of 95 per cent for the Professional and higher-level categories and 98 per cent for the General Service category, since these positions have been filled in 2000-2001.

^b Estimated at vacancy rate of 50 per cent in accordance with existing practice for new positions.

16. As mentioned in paragraph 9 above, no provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 in relation to the Subregional Centre. At this stage, it is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed within the existing resources under section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

VI. Contingency fund

17. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the approved programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities.

18. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 22 foreseen for the biennium 2002-2003 would have to be further reprogrammed and modified beyond the proposals included in the present statement.

VII. Summary

19. In summary, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/56/L.2, that decision would give rise to additional requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 22, Human rights. No additional requirements would arise under sections 4 and 23.

20. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium.

21. Consequently, an additional provision of \$1,000,000 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 22, Human rights, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. This provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an increase in appropriations for the biennium 2002-2003.
